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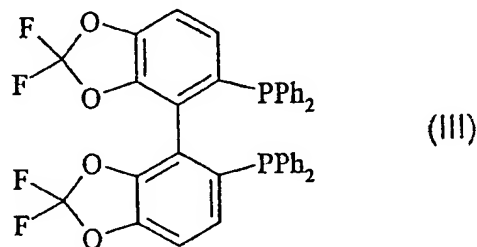
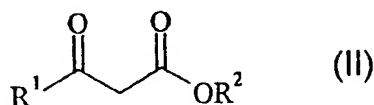
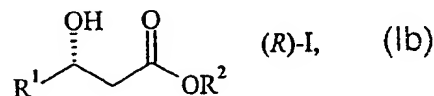
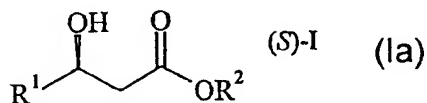
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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF (S)- OR (R)-4-HALO-3-HYDROXYBUTYRATES



(57) Abstract: Process for the preparation of enantiomerically pure (S)- or (R)-4-halo-3-hydroxybutyrates of formula (I), wherein R¹ is CH₂X, CHX₂ or CX₃ and X independently represents Cl and/or Br and wherein R² is C₁-₆-alkyl, C₃-₈-cycloalkyl, aryl or aralkyl, each aryl or aralkyl being optionally further substituted with one or more C₁-₄-alkyl groups and/or halogen atoms, by asymmetric hydrogenation of 4-halo-3-oxobutyrate acid esters of formula (II), wherein R¹, R² and X are as defined above in the presence of a catalyst of a ruthenium complex comprising a chiral ligand of the formula (III).